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ABSTRACT

To determine the amount and kind of news about foreign countries available to most small-to-medium-sized mass media in the United States, foreign dateline stories of the Associated Press Interbureau (IB Blend) and the United Press International state wire were content analyzed for two weeks of consecutive days and two "constructed week" samples from the first six months of 1979. The research was part of a UNESCO-sponsored study involving research teams throughout the world. The findings revealed that both wires carried significantly more and longer stories about less-developed countries than about more-developed countries. In addition, the bulk of the sampled stories concentrated on political and military activity and crime. Economic matters, international aid efforts, social services, culture, scientific and medical achievements, and ecological issues such as energy and pollution were all but neglected in the coverage of both less-developed and more-developed countries in favor of more "official" news from governmental and military authorities. The findings suggest that basic questions of news value among Western editors and reporters may be more fundamental than those raised by the current controversy about the amount and kind of coverage of foreign nations. (Author/FL)

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FOREIGN NEWS COVERAGE IN TWO U.S. WIRE SERVICES

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Presented to the International Communication Division, Association for Education in Journalism Annual Convention, Boston, Mass., August 1980. Dr. Wilhoit is professor of journalism and associate director of the Bureau of Media Research at Indiana University, where Dr. Weaver is associate professor of journalism and director of the Bureau. The authors thank doctoral students Frederick Fico and Mathias Mogekwu for their help in coding the wire service stories, and doctoral student Joël Demay for his help in analyzing the data.

Times were simpler in 1690 when Benjamin Harris began the first American newspaper, the ill-fated Publick Occurrences, Both Forreign and Domestick.[1] Although closed summarily by the Royal Governor after one issue, the patterns of news coverage hinted at by Publick Occurrences were reinforced by the colonial papers that followed it. News brought by sailing vessels to the new land about the governmental and mercantile institutions of the old world of Europe would be prominent in the colonial press and would have a ring of currency in today's bitter debate about world news flow.

As the less-developed countries of the Third World increase their political power within international organizations such as UNESCO, complaints about world news flow become strident. Of special concern is the image of Third World countries in the mass media of the industrialized West, particularly in the U.S. Third World critics see Western coverage of their countries as disproportionate and distorted, with too little coverage and too much concentration on the violent, bizarre, and the conflictual.

The 19th General Conference of UNESCO in Nairobi in November, 1976 called for a major international study of national images portrayed in the world press.[2] Following the Nairobi conference, UNESCO requested the International Association for Mass Communication Research (IAMCR) to undertake such a study.[3]

IAMCR President James D. Halloran, director of the Centre for Mass Communication Research at the University of Leicester, convened a group of scholars to plan the UNESCO study during the biennial scientific conference of IAMCR in Warsaw on September 8, 1978.[4] The group responded to a draft of a content analysis coding scheme that had been worked out in a pilot project by Kaarle Nordenstreng and Markku Salomaa of the University of Tampere in Finland.[5]

About 20 national research teams undertook research in their countries,

coordinated by Halloran at Leicester. With Richard Cole as head, the U.S. team consisted of Donald L. Shaw, Robert L. Stevenson (all at North Carolina), and the present authors.

This paper reports on an analysis of foreign news in selected domestic U.S. wires of the Associated Press (AP) and the United Press International (UPI). The major objective of the analysis was to scrutinize the amount and quality of news about foreign lands available to most small-to medium-sized mass media in the U.S.

The morning cycle of Associated Press TTS Interbureau (IB Blend) wire and the United Press International state wire were studied. The nation's biggest papers, those most likely to have substantial audiences for foreign news, receive the national trunk wires containing more foreign news than do the "B" wires. Therefore, this study concentrates on the supply of foreign news available to to smaller mass media, those newspapers serving the majority of small cities and towns in America.[6]

Research Questions

The basic objective of the project is to provide baseline data for cross-national comparison, using a standardized content analysis protocol. This research paper uses the data gathered with this content analysis system to address these questions:

1. What is the relative frequency of foreign datelined stories in U.S. domestic wire services about the more-developed industrialized nations of the North and the less-developed nations of the South?
2. What are the differences in story length, if any, in U.S. regional wire stories about more-developed and less-developed countries?
3. What are the differences, if any, in subject matter in U.S. wire stories about more-developed and less-developed countries.

Related Studies

Few studies have looked closely at U.S. wire service coverage of foreign news, particularly the services available to smaller, more provincial media. Studies that are available suggest that Third World complaints may deserve a closer look.

A quarter centruy ago, Scott Cutlip analyzed the content and flow of the AP wires, finding that only about five to ten percent of state wire copy dealt with foreign news.[7] Two decades later, Al Hester found that foreign datelines constituted about 20 percent of the "IB" wire. Hester also found evidence that wire news was heavily oriented to European countries and that news about developing societies tended to emphasize violence, famine, and social disintegration.[8]

Other have argued that wire news is more balanced in foreign coverage than critics say, and that the problem lies in news selection patterns of mass media editors.[9] Thus, the background studies suggest a need for much more extensive baseline data on wire service foreign coverage performance than now exists.

In addition to these studies concerning U.S. wire service coverage of foreign countries, many other studies suggest that general U.S. media coverage of the rest of the world--especially the Third World countries--tends to be crisis-oriented and drawn to sensational and atypical happenings. Tattarian argues that there is an acknowledged tendency among Western media, including the wire services, to devote greater attention to the Third World in times of disaster, crises and confrontation.[10] Aggarwala concludes that most of the Third World news is negative and deals with such subjects as famines, natural disasters, and political and military intrigues.[11] Lent and Woolacott, in separate papers, support the crisis orientation of news from the less developed

countries of the world.[12] Golding and Elliot argue that much of the coverage of developing nations is centered on nations subject to repetitive crisis or military conflict.[13]

Other scholars suggest that news about the less-developed countries of the world is likely to constitute a rather small proportion of all Western foreign news. Hester found that news concerning Western Europe predominated in the foreign news coverage of U.S. wire services and that TV "news from Asia, Africa and Latin America was generally little evidenced,unless U.S. interests were directly involved."[14] Gerbner and Marvanyi, studying foreign news coverage in nine countries, found that foreign news content constituted about 16 percent of total news space for the New York Times in 1970, as Kayser found in 1951, and that only three percent of U.S. press coverage was devoted to Central and Southern Africa.[15]

In short, these previous studies and recent complaints of Third World countries regarding Western news coverage led us to expect that the less-developed countries of the world as a group would receive less of the foreign news coverage in the wire services we studied than would the more-developed countries, and that the wire service coverage of the less-developed countries would be more crisis- and conflict-oriented than would the coverage of the more-developed countries.

Method

A standardized content analysis scheme, developed primarily by Paul Hartmann at the University of Leicester, was used by all the research teams working on the project. Each team tested a prototype set of content categories and coding scheme and forwarded suggestions to the project coordinators.

Therefore, data reported here will include both analysis of the pretest

of the content analysis scheme and the official analysis conducted at a later date.

Samples. Wire service copy from the AP and UPI services flowing into the computer of the Indiana Daily Student was used in this study. Two types of samples are used: two weeks of consecutive days, and two "constructed weeks."

The pretest sample included all wire stories with foreign datelines during a consecutive five-day week (February 5-9, 1979) chosen randomly from the first two months of 1979. A constructed week sample of five randomly selected days (one Monday, one Tuesday, etc.) was chosen from the first three months of the year (February 20, 22, 26, March 7 and March 16).

The "official" sample included a consecutive six day week (April 5-10) and a constructed week (March 5, April 18, May 2, May 18, June 6 and June 16) from 1979.[16]

Categories. These ranged from descriptions of simple structural characteristics, such as story length, to more complex judgments of story themes and topics. (See Appendix for the actual coding form used.) The major categories consisted of news story topics and themes, and the nationality and position of main actors within the news stories.

Topics. Coders identified one main topic and up to three subsidiary topics for each news story. Each story was classified into one of 47 possible subjects, ranging from "politics within states" and "military and defense" to "human interest" and "natural disasters."

Main Actor. Principals in each news story were classified into one of 31 positions. These classifications ranged from "symbolic/nominal head of state" and "chief executive, prime minister, president," to "ordinary people, citizens."

Themes and References. Thirty-two categories of themes were used,

with each news story being coded in as many of the categories as required by the particular news item. The list of themes and references contained such items as "nuclear arms proliferation/limitation" and "espionage" as well as broader terms such as "capitalism" and "totalitarianism."

Coder Reliability. Five pairs of coders from a beginning research methods class processed ten of the wire service stories chosen randomly from the larger sample of news stories. The average coder agreement (using a standard percentage of agreement formula) for the most difficult section of the category scheme (topics) was 68 percent. Reliability for the simple structural items (such as story type) was much higher.

Chance agreement was negligible because of the large number of possible categories in the major parts of the coding protocol, so the coding tests suggest reasonable confidence in the data. Two advanced doctoral students (a Nigerian and an American who were highly knowledgeable and well-trained in the coding scheme) were employed to perform the content analysis of the official sample data. Seven members of an advanced research methods class coded the pretest data.[17]

Level of Development. In order to compare the amount and kind of regional wire service coverage of more-developed and less-developed countries of the world, it was necessary to divide the 91 countries included in our study into these two groups. This is, of course, a somewhat problematic and difficult task, given the absence of any "official" list to serve as a baseline. Our classification was based primarily upon a North-South geographical dimension, with the more-developed countries tending to fall into the Northern Hemisphere and the less-developed countries tending to fall into the Southern Hemisphere. This classification follows the logic behind the first North-South dialogue conference on International Economic held in Paris in December of 1975.

We decided to put the countries of Europe and the USSR, North America, Japan, Australia, and South Africa in the more-developed (Northern) category because of their economic development status and because both Japan and Australia were members of the North group in the Paris conference. We also included Greece in the more-developed group because of its ties with the Western world. (See Table 1)

In the less-developed (Southern) cagegory, we included Africa (minus South Africa), Asia (minus the eastern USSR), South America and Oceania (minus Australia). Yugoslavia was also included in this group, although it is a European country by any geographical standard, because of its leading role in the New International Information Order debate and in the Non-Aligned Nations movement, and its membership in the South group at the 1975 Paris conference.

Other debatable cases--especially Turkey, Israel, Hong Kong and Portugal--were classified according to their concern with the UNESCO-sponsored debate on the New International Information Order. Of these four, only Portugal was classified as a more-developed country. Israel was classified as a less-developed country because of its comparative newness, its concern with developmental problems, and its sensitivity to the issue of cultural imperialism, especially in the form of imported television programming. (See Table 1)

Findings

The most frequently covered less-developed countries in the "official" wire service sample were Iran, Uganda, Israel, Egypt, China and Nicaragua. And the same was generally true for the pretest sample as well, with Iran dominating the list and Vietnam replacing Nicaragua and Uganda. (See Table 1) The frequencies of stories about the less-developed countries of the world in Table 1 also suggest that most of these 66 countries received some coverage during the

four weeks we studied, even if this coverage was rather sparse.

Among the 25 more-developed countries included in our study, Austria, France, West Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, and the Soviet Union received the most frequent coverage. As with the less-developed countries, most of the more-developed countries received some coverage in either the pretest or official samples. In fact, we were surprised at the number of countries receiving some coverage in the AP and UPI regional wire services during the four weeks we studied. There were considerably more countries represented (69) than we expected to find in such a relatively short time period.

Number of Stories. The AP and UPI carried significantly more foreign news stories from the less-developed countries than from the more-developed countries in the official two-week sample period, with UPI carrying almost twice as many stories from less-developed countries as from more-developed countries. (See Table 2) And the same was true for the pretest sample, where 117 stories were located in less-developed countries and 74 were located in more developed countries. (The other three stories were located in "non-countries," such as the United Nations and the Caribbean.)

However, it should be remembered that the less-developed countries in our study outnumbered the more-developed countries nearly three-to-one, so one would expect nearly three times as much coverage of the less-developed countries as of the more-developed countries, if an equal number of stories were carried about each country. But this seems to us to be an unreasonable demand to place upon the wire services, when many of the less developed countries of the world are far less populated than are the more-developed countries.

In short, the sheer numbers of foreign datelined stories carried by the regional wire services do not support the claim that the U.S. wire services are ignoring the less-developed countries of the world in favor of the more-developed countries in their foreign news coverage.

Length of Stories. Both AP and UPI carried foreign news stories that were, on the average, longer when located in the less-developed countries of the world than when located in the more-developed countries. (See Table 3) This was especially true for AP, where the average length in column centimeters of the foreign news stories about the less-developed countries was one and one-half times as great (17.1) as the average length for the more-developed countries (12.1). (We could not compare the pretest sample with the official sample because length was not measured for the pretest stories.)

In short, the average lengths of the foreign news stories in our sample do not support the claim that U.S. wire services are devoting more foreign news coverage to the more-developed countries of the world than to the less-developed countries.

Subjects of Stories. As explained in the "Method" section, each story was coded into one main topic and into no more than three subsidiary topics. (See Appendix for the coding form used.) The comparison of the subject matter of stories from more-developed and less-developed countries which follows is based on main and subsidiary topics combined. All differences noted between more-developed and less-developed countries are significant to the .05 level or beyond, as measured by the chi-square test.

The bulk of the regional wire service coverage for both more-developed and less-developed countries was about diplomatic and political activity between states, internal conflict or crisis, armed conflict or the threat of it, peace moves and negotiations, elections and campaigns, crime, and human interest and odd happenings. (See Table 4) In short, the wire services concentrated mostly on "official" news--that which flows mainly from government and military sources.

There was very little news dealing with social problems, culture, education, health, family planning and other social services. And there was

very little wire service news dealing with international aid and economic matters, especially agricultural projects.

Overall, then, the subject matter of the regional wire service stories in general supports the claim that the Western news agencies do not report much about social and economic development as compared to political and military events. But is this tendency more pronounced in news from the less-developed countries of the world as compared to the more-developed countries?

A comparison of the 139 stories from the more-developed countries with the 197 stories from the less-developed countries indicates that stories from the less-developed countries are significantly more likely than are stories from more-developed countries to be about diplomatic/political activity between states, internal conflict or crisis, armed conflict or the threat of it, military aid, and political crime. (See Table 4 for exact percentages)

Wire service stories from the more-developed countries of the world, on the other hand, are significantly more likely than stories about the less-developed countries to be about non-political crime, religion, and human interest or odd happenings. (See Table 4 for exact percentages)

These trends are generally supported by the pretest data. Significantly more stories from the less-developed countries focus on elections, political violence, internal conflict or crisis, and armed conflict than do stories from the more-developed countries. And significantly more stories from the more-developed countries concentrate on prices, labor relations and culture than do stories from the less-developed countries. In addition, there are very few stories about social problems, education, health, the family and other social services from either the less-developed or the more developed countries of the world.

In short, our data on the subject matter of U.S. regional wire service foreign news coverage in the spring of 1979 supports those who claim that

Western coverage of the less-developed Third World countries tends to concentrate on conflicts and crises. The largest differences we found between wire service coverage of the more-developed and less-developed countries were on the topics of internal conflict or crisis, and armed conflict.

Conclusions

As mentioned earlier, previous studies and more recent charges by Third World countries led us to expect that the less-developed countries would receive less of the foreign coverage of the regional wires we studied than would the more-developed countries. But our data on number and length of wire service stories did not support this expectation. In fact, there were more foreign news stories from the less-developed countries than from the more-developed countries in both the AP and UPI regional wires, and these stories were, on the average, longer than those from the more-developed countries. And in the four weeks we studied, 69 different countries were reported on, 48 of them "less-developed."

Some will argue that this finding is not typical because of the time period we studied. The Iranian revolution, the conflict between Israel and some of her Arab neighbors, and the fighting in Uganda and Vietnam and Nicaragua did increase the number (and probably the length) of many wire service stories from less-developed countries of the world. But we would argue that it is difficult to find a time period when such events are <u>not</u> occurring somewhere in the world. Because of this tendency for armed conflict to be occurring somewhere in the world at any given time, our findings are probably more typical than they might appear at first.

Although our data do not support the claim that the less-developed countries of the world are neglected in favor of the more-developed countries in the foreign coverage of the two U.S. regional wire services, our findings do

support the claim that Western news agencies focus on conflicts and crises when covering the less-developed or Third World countries. This may be true, however, because there simply is more open armed conflict and crisis in these countries than in the more-developed countries.

But even in the more-developed countries, the bulk of the wire service stories we analyzed concentrated on political and military activity and crime. Economic matters, international aid efforts (except for military aid), social services, culture, scientific and medical achievements, and ecological issues such as energy and pollution were all but neglected in the coverage of both less-developed and more-developed countries of the world in favor of the more "official" news from governmental and military authorities.

These findings suggest that basic questions of news values among Western editors and reporters may be more fundamental and, in the long run, more important than is the current debate regarding the amount and kind of coverage of less-developed and more-developed countries of the world. Radically different definitions of news than those that exist today might help greatly in promoting not only international but also intra-national understanding and cooperation.

Table 1

Frequency of U.S. Regional Wire Service Foreign Coverage, Spring 1979

Less-Developed Countries (n = 66) Location of Story	Pretest Sample (n = 194 stories)	"Official" Sample (n = 336 stories)	More-Developed Countries (n = 25) Location of Story	Pretest Sample (n = 194 stories)	"Official" Sample (n = 336 stories)
Afghanistan	0.5%	0.6%	Australia	0.5%	0.9%
Algeria	--	1.8	Austria	0.5	4.2
Argentina	--	--	Belgium	--	0.6
Brazil	1.0	0.3	Canada	0.5	0.9
Burma	--	0.3	Czechoslavakia	--	0.6
Cambodia	1.5	0.3	Denmark	--	--
Chad	0.5	0.3	France	1.5	4.2
China (P.R.)	3.1	3.6	Germany(DR)(East)	--	--
Columbia	--	0.6	Germany(FR)(West)	--	1.2
Cuba	--	--	Great Britain	10.8	6.2
Cyprus	0.5	0.6	Greece	--	0.3
Dominican Republic	--	--	Hungary	--	--
Ecuador	0.5	--	Ireland	0.5	0.9
Egypt	2.6	4.2	Italy	8.8	5.0
El Salvador	1.0	--	Japan	3.6	3.0
Ethiopia	--	--	Norway	1.0	0.3
Fiji Islands	--	--	Poland	--	1.5
Ghana	--	0.9	Portugal	0.5	--
Guyana	1.5	--	South Africa	--	0.9
Hong Kong	1.5	1.2	Spain	--	0.9
India	0.5	0.9	Sweden	--	--
Indonesia	1.0	0.3	Switzerland	1.0	0.3
Iran	19.1	8.3	United States	0.5	0.6
Iraq	--	--	USSR	2.6	7.1
Israel	3.1	5.0	Vatican	2.6%	1.8%
Jordan	0.5	--			
Kenya	--	--			
Korea(N.)	--	0.3			
Korea(S.)	--	0.6			
Kuwait	0.5	0.9			
Laos	--	1.2			

Table 1 (continued)

Location of Story	Pretest Sample (n = 194 stories)	"Official" Sample (n = 336 stories)
Lebanon	2.1	0.6
Liberia	--	0.6
Libya	--	--
Malaysia	0.5	1.2
Maldive Islands	0.5	--
Mauritania	--	--
Mexico	1.0	1.5
Mongolia	--	--
Nepal	--	0.3
Nicaragua	--	3.0
Nigeria	--	--
Pakistan	0.5	2.7
Palestine	--	--
Panama	--	0.6
Peru	--	--
Phillipines	2.1	0.6
Portugal	--	--
Puerto Rico	0.5	--
Saudi Arabia	--	--
St. Lucia	0.5	--
St. Vincent	--	0.3
Sudan	0.5	--
Syria	--	0.3
Taiwan	0.5	--
Tanzania	--	--
Thailand	1.0	2.1
Tunisia	--	--
Turkey	1.0	--
Uganda	1.5	7.4
United Arab Emirates	--	0.3
Vietnam	5.7	2.1
Yemen(N.)	0.5	0.3
Yemen(S.)	--	--
Yugoslavia	1.5	0.6
Zimbabwe-Rhodesia	1.5%	2.1%

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Table 2

Comparison of U.S. Regional Wire Service Foreign Coverage--
Number of Stories

	Less-Developed	More-Developed	TOTAL
Number of Stories from:			
AP	107(54%)	91(46%)	198(100%)
UPI	90(65%)	48(35%)	138(100%)
TOTAL	197(59%)	139(41%)	336(100%)

Corrected chi-square = 3.74, 1 df, p = .05

Table 3

Comparison of U.S. Regional Wire Service Foreign Coverage--
Average Length of Stories in Column Centimeters

		Less-Developed	More-Developed	F-Test Significance
Average Length of Stories of:				
AP	(n = 198)	17.1	12.1	p = .002
UPI	(n = 138)	20.1	18.9	p = .56
AP and UPI combined	(n = 336)	18.5	14.4	p = .001

Table 4

Comparison of Subject Matter of U.S. Regional Wire Service Foreign Coverage, Spring 1979

Topics of Wire Service Stories	Percent of Stories From More-Developed Countries [a] (n = 139)	Percent of Stories From Less-Developed Countries (n = 197)	Percent of All Stories in Official Sample (n = 336)	Chi-square Significance Between More- and Less-Developed Countries
Politics				
1. Diplomatic/political activity between states	34.5%	48.3%	42.6%	.004
2. Internal conflict or crisis	13.7	46.7	33.0	.0001
3. Elections, campaigns, appointments, government changes	15.1	10.1	12.2	.27
4. Other political, including legislation	1.4	3.0	2.4	.45
Military and Defense				
5. Armed conflict or threat of	10.8	41.6	28.9	.0001
6. Peace moves, negotiations, settlements	10.8	17.3	14.6	.11
7. Other, including arms deals, weapons, bases exercises	4.3	2.5	3.3	.59
Economic Matters				
8. Agreements on trade, tariffs, etc.	3.6	3.5	3.6	.25
9. Other international trade, imports, exports	4.3	2.5	3.3	.21
10. Capital investment, stock issues (not aid)	0.7	0.0	0.3	.86
11. Stock exchange, share prices, dividends	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A
12. Other economics performance, output, growth, etc.	2.2	0.5	1.2	.39
13. Prices, cost of living, inflation, etc.	0.7	1.0	0.9	.68
14. Industrial projects, factories, dams, ports	4.4	1.5	2.7	.11
15. Agricultural matters, projects, crops, harvests, etc.	0.0%	0.5%	0.3%	.86

Table 4 (continued)

	Topics of Wire Service Stories	Percent of Stories From More-Developed Countries [a] (n = 139)	Percent of Stories From Less-Developed Countries (n = 197)	Percent of All Stories in Official Sample (n = 336)	Chi-square Significance Between More- and Less-Developed Countries
16.	Industrial/labor relations, disputes, negotiations, wages	3.6%	1.0%	2.1%	.11
17.	Monetary questions, exchange rates, money supply	3.6	0.0	1.5	.03
18.	Other economic	0.0	2.0	1.2	.24
	International Aid				
19.	Disaster or famine relief	0.0	2.5	1.5	.17
20.	Aid for economic purposes (e.g., industrial development)	1.4	1.0	1.2	.87
21.	Military aid, weapons, advisors, training	0.7	7.1	4.5	.01
22.	Other aid (e.g., education, family planning)	0.7	0.5	0.6	.64
	Social Services				
23.	Social problems generally (health, housing, illiteracy, etc.)	3.6	1.5	2.4	.36
24.	Educational provision	0.0	0.5	0.3	.86
25.	Health provision (not family planning)	0.7	0.0	0.3	.86
26.	Family planning	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A
27.	Other social services and social welfare	0.0	0.5	0.3	.86
	Crime, Police, Judicial, Legal, Penal				
28.	Non-political crime, police, judicial, and penal activity	14.4	3.6	8.1	.0001
29.	Political crime	9.4	17.8	14.2	.02
30.	Non-criminal legal and court proceedings (e.g., claims for damages)	0.0	0.5	0.3	.86
31.	Other crime/legal	2.9	0.0	1.2	.06
32.	Culture, Arts, Archaeology	5.7	3.0	3.2	.29
33.	Religion [b]	10.8	1.0	5.1	.0001
34.	Scientific, Technical, Medical	7.9	3.0	5.1	.12

Topics of Wire Service Stories	Percent of Stories From More-Developed Countries [a] (n = 139)	Percent of Stories From Less-Developed Countries (n = 197)	Percent of All Stories in Official Sample (n = 336)	Chi-square Significance Between More- and Less-Developed Countries
Sports				
35. International	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	N/A
36. Non-international	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A
37. Entertainment, Show Business (except personalities)	0.7	1.0	0.9	.68
Personalities (not politicians)				
38. Sports	1.4	1.0	1.2	.47
39. Entertainers	0.0	1.0	0.6	.49
40. Others	0.7	2.0	1.5	.47
41. Human Interest, Odd Happenings, Animals, Sex, etc.	22.3	4.5	11.9	.0001
42. Student Matters	0.7	2.0	1.5	.56
Ecology				
43. Energy conservation	1.4	0.5	0.9	.48
44. Pollution	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A
45. Other	0.7	0.0	0.3	.86
46. Natural Disaster (floods, etc.)	2.2	3.6	3.0	.68
47. Other	4.3	2.0	3.0	.42

[a] These percentages for stories about more-developed countries (and the percentages for stories about less-developed countries and for all stories combined) total to more than 100% because each story was coded into one main topic and up to three subsidiary topics. The percentages in this table are based on the combined main and subsidiary topic tables.

[b] These percentages for the "religion" topic are based only on the main topic totals. Including the subsidiary topic totals would obscure the difference between the wire service coverage of the more-developed and less-developed countries.

Notes

[1]Frank Luther Mott, American Journalism (New York: The MacMillan Co., 1963) p. 9.

[2]Kaarle Nordenstreng and Markku Salomaa, "Studying the Image of Foreign Countries as Portrayed by the Mass Media: A Progress Report," unpublished paper prepared for the 12th Scientific Conference of the International Association for Mass Communication Research, Warsaw, Poland, September 4-9, 1978, p. 1.

[3]Robert L. Stevenson and Richard R. Cole, "Foreign News Coverage in the Press of 13 Nations," unpublished paper prepared for the USICA seminar on "Problems of International Communication and the Free Flow of Information," Washington, D.C., September 26-28, 1979, p. 8.

[4]Richard Cole, Robert L. Stevenson, Donald L. Shaw, and Cleve Wilhoit represented the United States at the meeting.

[5]Nordenstreng and Salomaa, pp. 1-21.

[6]Telephone interview with Dave Swaringen, Indianapolis Associated Press Bureau Chief, April 16, 1979. Mr. Swaringen reported that a recent AP study showed that about 60% of the approximately 1300 newspapers who are members of AP rely on the IB wire as their "prime" source of news. Prestige and large-circulation papers, such as the Indianapolis and Evansville papers, also receive the "A" trunk wire, the sports wire, and the business wire. The IB wire contains about 90% of all national and international news that moves from other AP wires.

Telephone interview with Dustin Harvey, Indianapolis United Press International Bureau chief, April 16, 1979. Mr. Harvey reported that the UPI state wire is the "minimum" service from UPI, designed for small, afternoon newspapers. He estimated that about half of the UPI subscribers rely only on the state wire, typically the smaller papers.

[7]Scott M. Cutlip, "Content and Flow of AP News-- From Trunk to TTS to Reader," Journalism Quarterly, 31:434-446 (Winter 1954).

[8]Al Hester, "An Analysis of News Flow From Developed and Developing Nations," Gazette, 17:29-43 (1971).

[9]John Maxwell Hamilton, "Ho-hum, Latin America," Columbia Journalism Review, 16:9-10 (May/June, 1977).

[10]Roger Tattarian, "News Flow in the Third World: Some Problems and Proposals," paper presented at a conference on the Third World and Press Freedom at the Edward R. Murrow Center for Public Diplomacy, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, New York, May 12-13, 1977.

[11]Narinder Aggarwala, "Third World News Agency," paper presented at a conference on the Third World and Press Freedom at the Edward R. Murrow Center for Public Diplomacy, New York, May 12-13, 1977.

[12]John Lent, "Foreign News in American Media," Journal of Communication, 27:(Winter 1977). Martin Woollacott, "In Search of Bad News," New Straits Times (Kuala Lumpur), September 1975.

[13]Peter Golding and Phillip Elliot, "Mass Communication and Social Change: The Imagery of Development and Development of Imagery," in E. de Kadt and G. Williams, eds , Sociology and Development (London: Tavistock, 1974).

[14]Al Hester, "Foreign News on U.S. Television: Through a Glass Darkly or Not at All," paper presented at the biennial conference of the International Association for Mass Communication Research, Leicester, England, 1976.

[15]George Gerbner and George Marvanyi, "The Many Worlds of the World's Press," Journal of Communication, 27: (Winter 1977).

[16]As a result of technical problems with the computer system of the Indiana Daily Student, several dates chosen as the international official sample days required substitutions in the present study. In the continous week, March 12 was substituted for April 4. In the constructed week, April 18 (for April 17), May 18 (for May 17), and June 6 (for June 1) were substituted because of computer system problems.

[17]Members of the graduate seminar were Joël Demay, Lillian Dunlap, Frederick Fico, Mathias Mogekwu, Rita Haugh, W. Robert Nowell, and Gonzalo Soruco.